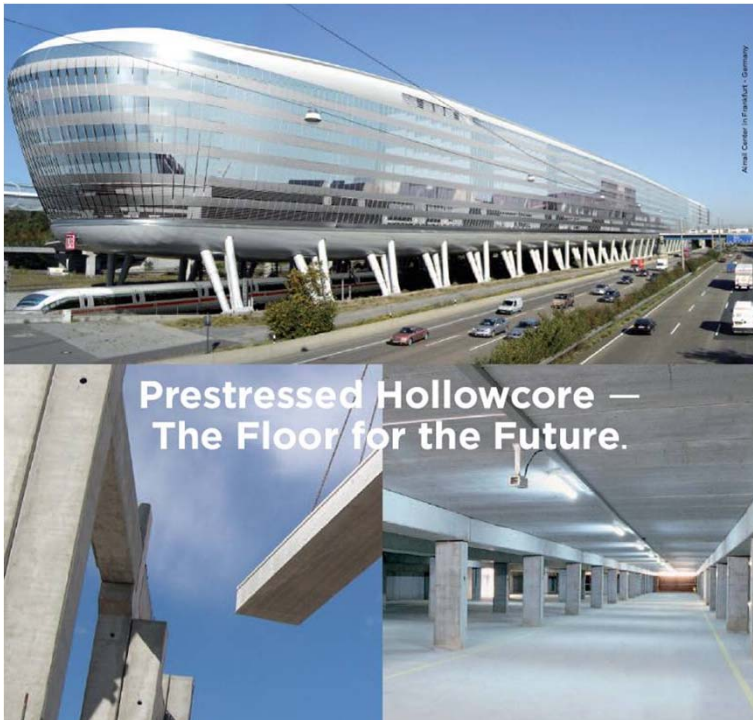




INTERNATIONAL PRESTRESSED  
HOLLOWCORE ASSOCIATION

# Spalling in EN1168



Technical Seminar  
October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2011  
RWTH-IMB Aachen (GE)

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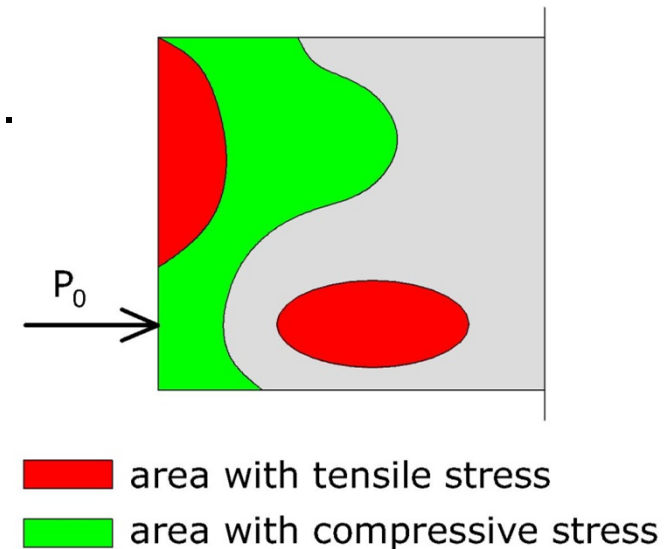
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# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

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## ■ Introduction

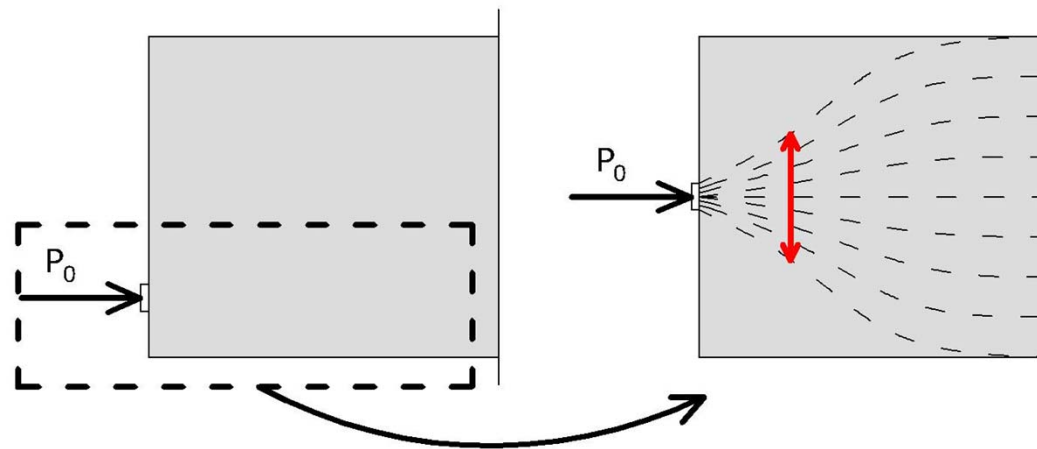
- Transfer of prestress force to the concrete is locally, with high stress concentrations.
- Principle of Jean Claude Barré de Saint-Venant → prestress force spreads out into a linear stress distribution (anchorage zone).
- Nonlinear stress distribution in this zone.
- Complex stress state:
  - High compressive stresses just after the loading point.
  - High tensile stresses perpendicular to the line of action of the force (bursting and spalling).



# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Bursting

- Spreading of the prestress force causes curved compressive stress trajectories which generates transverse tensile stresses (bursting stresses).



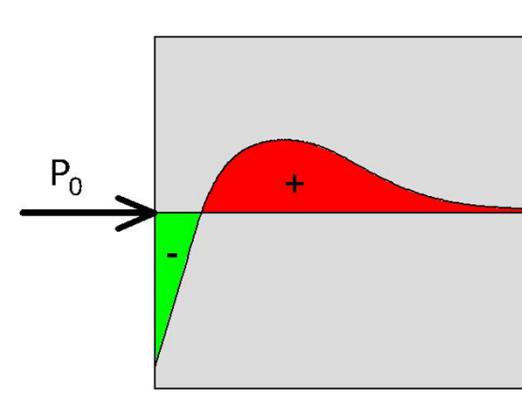
- Bursting stresses occur along the line of action of the prestress force.

# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

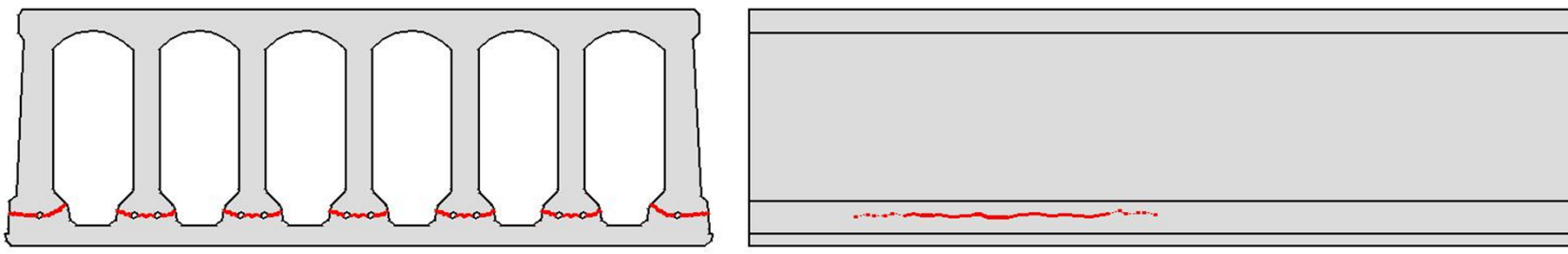
## ■ Bursting

- Maximum stress is located at some distance behind the loading point.

■ tensile stress  
■ compressive stress



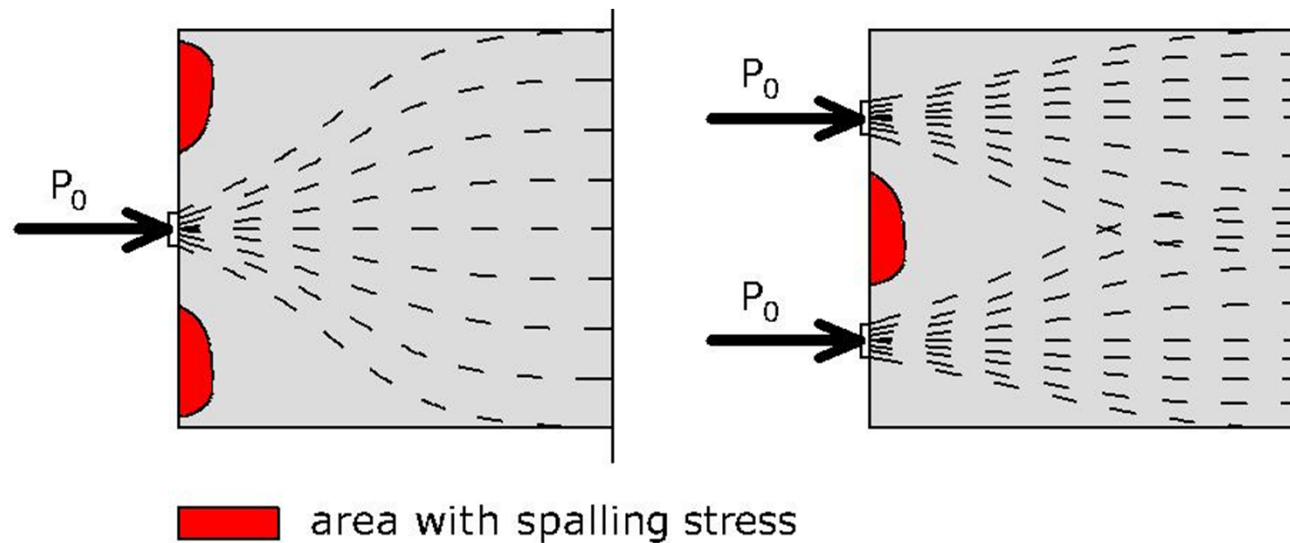
- Possible crack pattern (at release and its growth afterwards):



# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Spalling

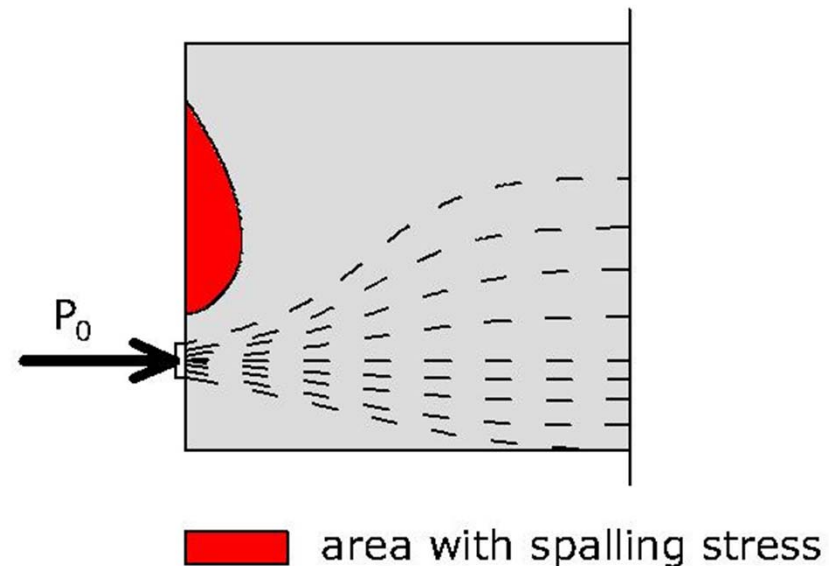
- Prestress force leads to compressive stress trajectories.
- Parts of the concrete are not subjected to pressure.
- Stress discontinuity between the compressed and non compressed zones results in shear and tensile stresses.



# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Spalling

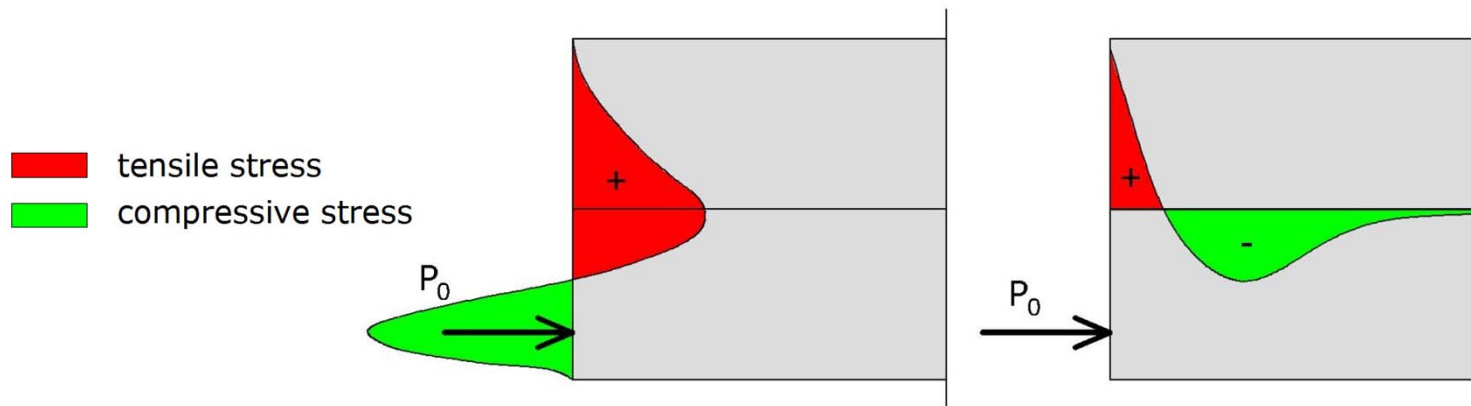
- Eccentric prestress: the eccentricity will cause extra curving of the already curved compressive stress trajectories.
  - Area with spalling stresses is bigger.
  - Max. spalling stress is bigger.
- Spalling stresses develop beside the loading point along the border of the member .



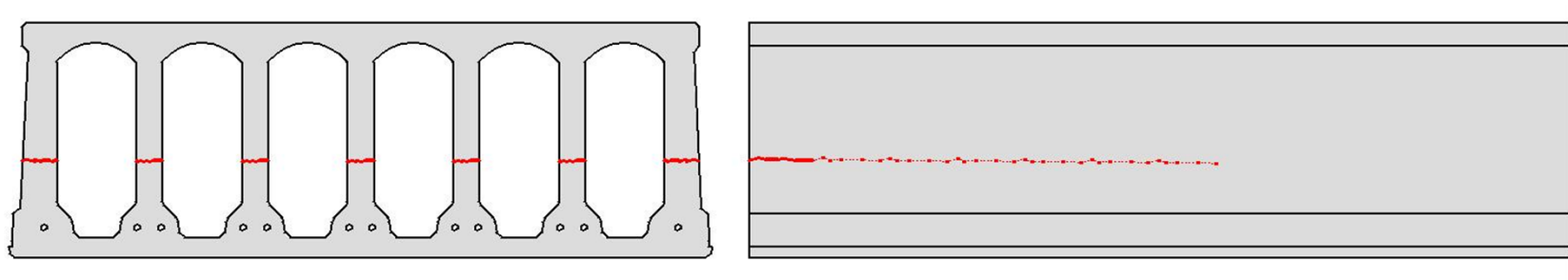
# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Spalling

- Maximum stress is located about mid height at member end.



- Possible crack pattern (at release and its growth afterwards):





# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Spalling

Crack opening  
is large !

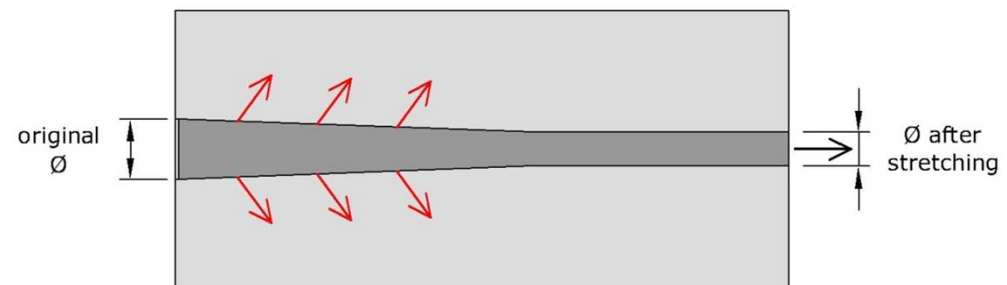
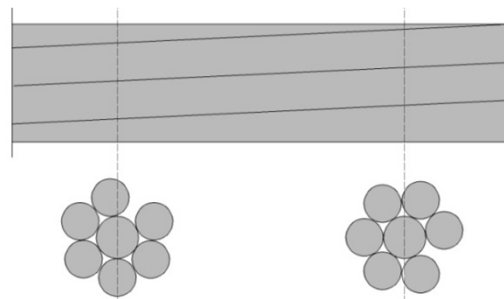


Crack length  
is large !

# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Splitting

- Only in case of prestressing (prestress transfer bond).
- Stresses occur locally around the tendons.
- Radial compressive stresses due to, such as :
  - Loose cement paste particles get stuck (failure adhesion)
  - Hoyer effect
  - Lack of fit

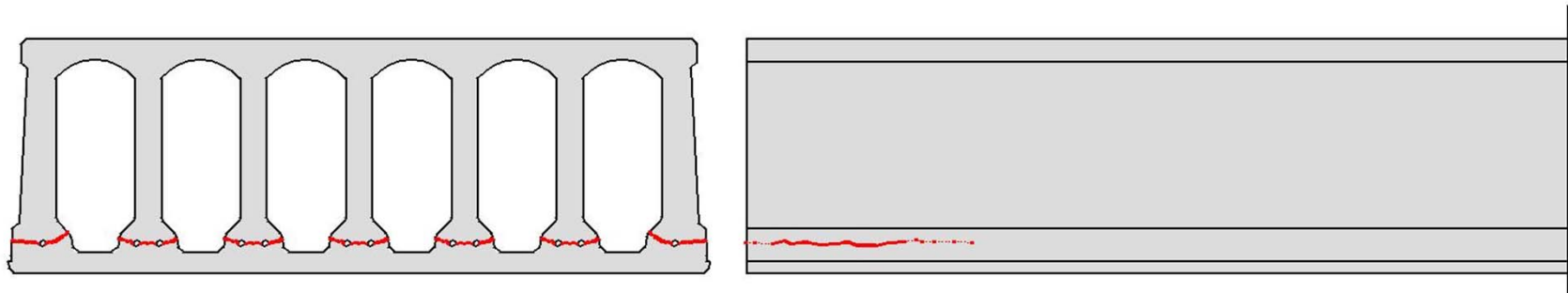


→ circumferential tensile stresses

# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ Splitting

- Maximum stress is located in the beginning of the transmission zone (original diameter of prestressing steel).
- Possible crack pattern (at release and its growth afterwards):



- Splitting cracks and bursting cracks are difficult to distinguish.

# 1. Bursting, spalling and splitting: what's the difference?

## ■ How to check bursting, spalling and splitting in the design of the slab?

### □ Bursting + splitting:

Art. 4.3.1.2.2 EN1168: 'Minimum concrete cover and axis distances of prestressing steel'.

→  $c_{min}$  to the nearest concrete surface and to the nearest edge of a core.

→ independent of the magnitude of the prestressing (in France 'chemins de fendage')

### □ Spalling:

Art. 4.3.3.2.1 EN1168: 'Resistance to spalling for prestressed hollow core slabs'.

→ formula max. stress → chapter 3 of this presentation.

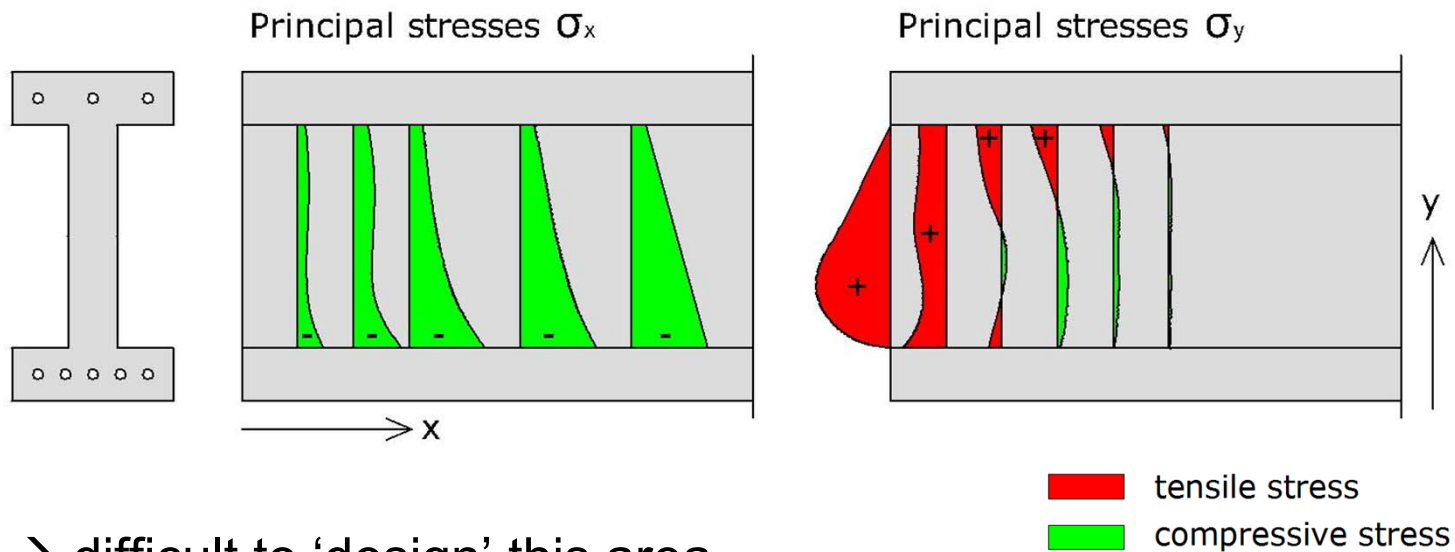
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## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Introduction

- Nonlinear distribution of longitudinal stress  $\sigma_x$  in the sections of the 'disturbed' anchorage zone  $\rightarrow$  Navier-Bernoulli hypothesis (plane sections remain plane after bending) is not valid.
- Nonlinear distribution of transverse stress  $\sigma_y$ .
- E.g. web I-beam:



$\rightarrow$  difficult to 'design' this area.

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

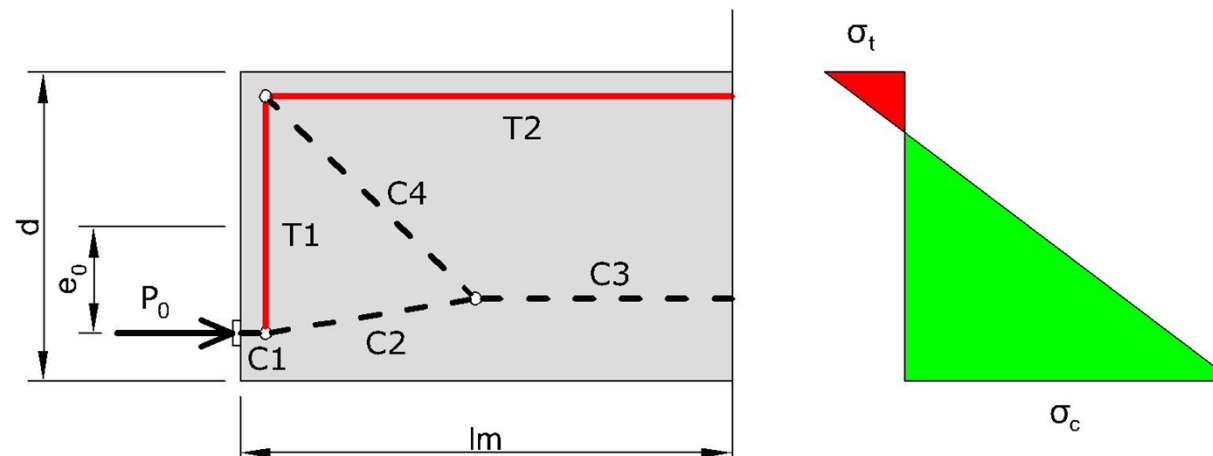
### ■ Second half 20th century

- A lot of research on the tensile stresses in the transmission zone.
- In the USA and Europe.
- Mostly post-tensioning (higher stress concentration).
- Impossible to present a complete overview.

### ■ Simple cross sections

- Strut-and-Tie Model: useful in locating zones of concrete tensile and compressive stress.

E.g. Truss analogy of Mörsch:



## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

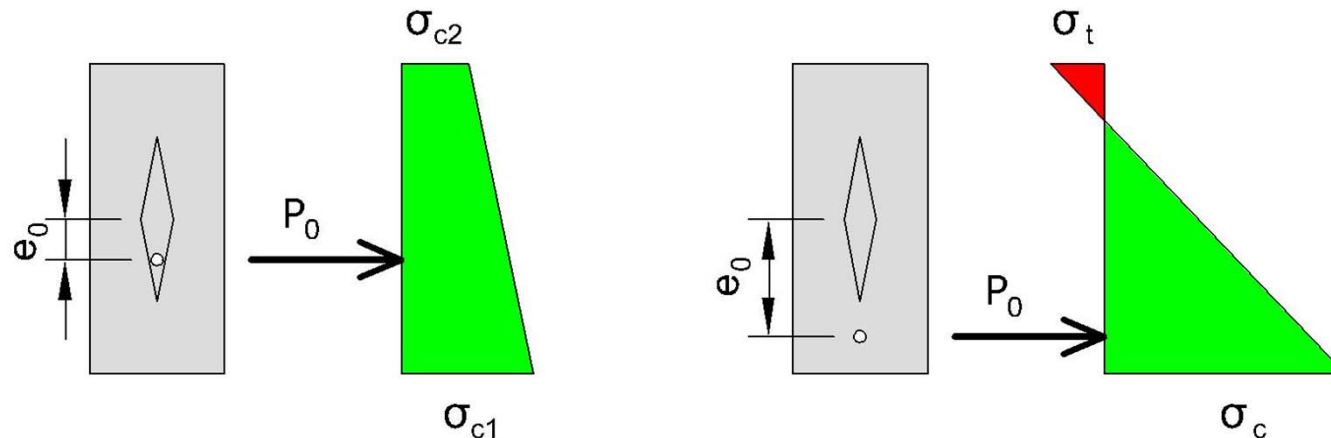
### ■ Simple cross sections

- Strut-and-Tie Model:

Max. stress rectangular cross section :

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{16 \cdot \left( \frac{e_0}{d} - \frac{1}{6} \right)^2 \cdot P_0 \cdot d^2}{e_0 \cdot l_m^2 \cdot b}$$

This formula works if  $P_0$  acts outside the core of the cross section.

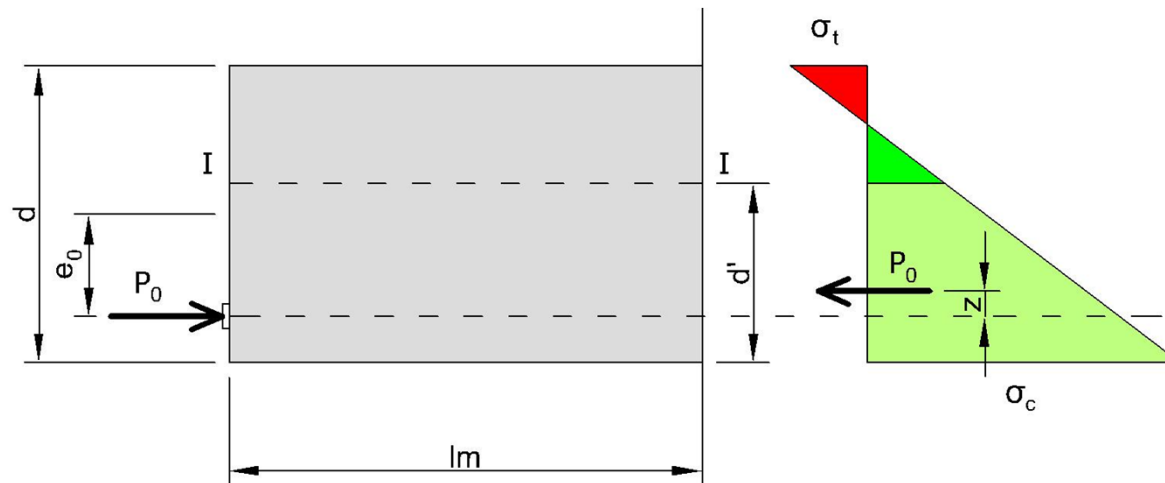




## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Simple cross sections

- Kupfer's method = equivalent prism analogy → equilibrium of a part of the transmission zone.



$d'$  is chosen so that the resultant of the stresses acting at the transmission zone end is equal to the prestressing force.

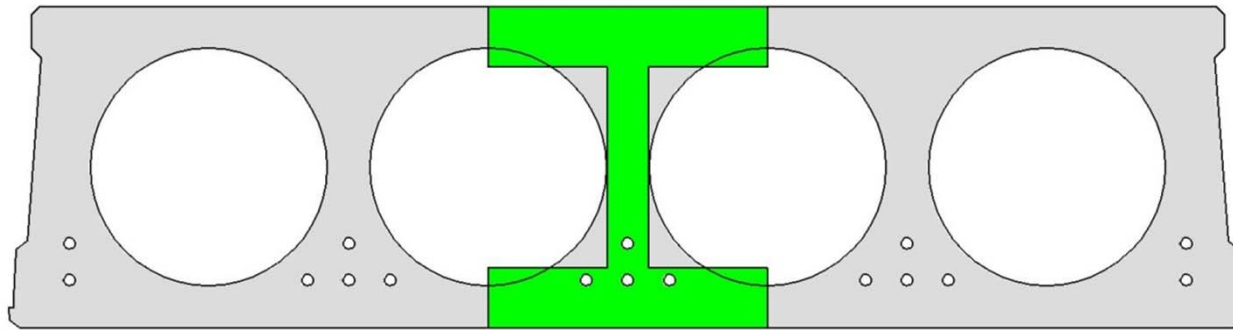
Max. stress rectangular cross section :

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{8 \cdot P_0 \cdot \left( \frac{d^2}{6 \cdot e_0} - \frac{d}{108 \cdot e_0^2} - d + 2 \cdot e_0 \right)}{l_m^2 \cdot b}$$

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Cross section hollow core slabs

- Not a simple cross section.
- Prestressing force is not distributed uniformly across the width of the slab.
- Transformation to simple cross sections (equivalent I-section).



Same area and moment of inertia

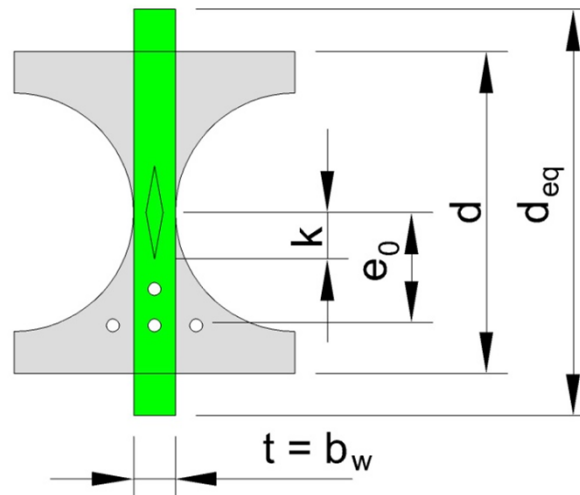
→ Calculate the max. spalling stress with the discussed methods.

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Cross section hollow core slabs

- Transformation to simple cross sections (equivalent rectangular section).

FEA of J.A. den Uijl (TU Delft) showed that the spalling stress of a rectangular section and a I-section are the same, as long as the relative eccentricity and the web width are the same.



$$d_{eq} = \frac{e_0}{\frac{(e_0 - k)}{d} + \frac{1}{6}}$$

$$\frac{e_0 - k}{d} = \text{relative eccentricity}$$

$$k = \text{core radius of cross section}$$

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Cross section hollow core slabs

#### □ Finite element analysis

- Analytical assessment of the spalling stresses is only approximately possible.
- To get a better understanding about:
  - The influence of some parameters on magnitude;
  - Distribution of the stresses;

J.A. den Uijl performed finite element analysis.

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{P_0}{b_w \cdot e_0} \cdot \frac{2 \cdot (0,02 + 4 \cdot \alpha_e^{2,3}) \cdot \left( \alpha_e + \frac{1}{6} \right)}{\left( 0,1 + 0,5 \cdot \alpha_e \right) \cdot \left( 1 + 1,5 \cdot \left( \frac{l_t}{e_0} \right)^{1,5} \cdot \left( \alpha_e + \frac{1}{6} \right)^{1,5} \right)} = \text{max. stress}$$

with  $\alpha_e = \frac{e_0 - k}{d}$  = relative eccentricity &  $l_t$  = transmission length

## 2. Calculation maximum spalling stress

### ■ Cross section hollow core slabs

#### □ Den Uijl's formula of $\sigma_{sp}$ :

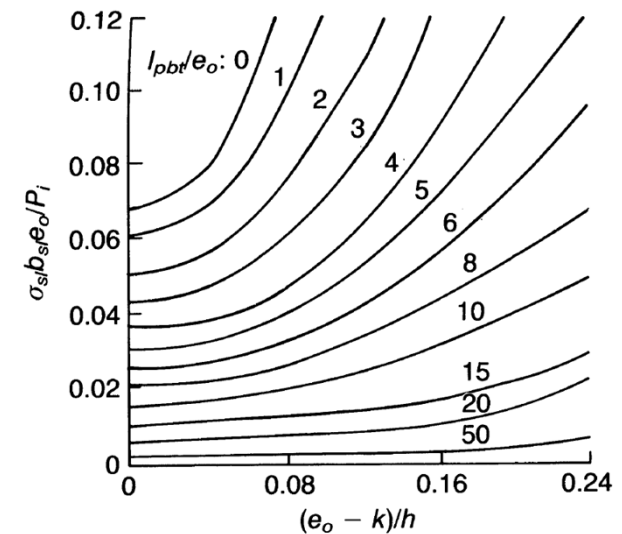
- Web or whole section.
- $\sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ctkj}$  = characteristic tensile strength at prestressing
- Only for members with  $d < 400$  mm.
- Influence of upper reinforcement was not analyzed.
- FIP recommendations 'Precast prestressed hollow core floors' (Thomas Telford, London, 1988).

$$\sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ctkj}$$

- CEB-FIB Model Code 1990 + 2010 (graph).

$$1990: \sigma_{sp} \leq \frac{f_{ct,fl}}{\gamma_c} \text{ with } f_{ct,fl} = \text{mean flexural tensile strength \& } \gamma_c = 1,5$$

$$2010: \sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ctd} = \frac{f_{ctk}}{\gamma_c} = \text{design concrete tensile strength}$$



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# 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- for each web or for the whole section (strands/wires well distributed over the width of the element):

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{P_0}{b_w \cdot e_0} \cdot \frac{15 \cdot \alpha_e^{2,3} + 0,07}{1 + \left(\frac{l_{pr1}}{e_0}\right)^{1,5} \cdot (1,3 \cdot \alpha_e + 0,1)} = \text{max. stress}$$

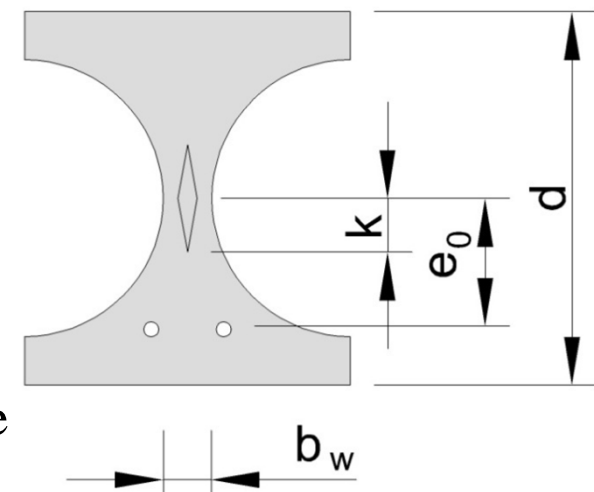
with  $\alpha_e = \frac{e_0 - k}{d} = \text{relative eccentricity} \geq 0$

$$k = \frac{W_b}{A_c} = \text{core radius}$$

$W_b$  = section modulus bottom fibre

$A_c$  = area of cross section

$l_{pr1}$  = lower desing value of transmission length



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- Similarity with formula of J.A. den Uijl:

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{P_0}{b_w \cdot e_0} \cdot \frac{2 \cdot (0,02 + 4 \cdot \alpha_e^{2,3}) \cdot \left( \alpha_e + \frac{1}{6} \right)}{(0,1 + 0,5 \cdot \alpha_e) \cdot \left( 1 + 1,5 \cdot \left( \frac{l_t}{e_0} \right)^{1,5} \cdot \left( \alpha_e + \frac{1}{6} \right)^{1,5} \right)}$$

$$\sigma_{sp} = \frac{P_0}{b_w \cdot e_0} \cdot \frac{15 \cdot \alpha_e^{2,3} + 0,07}{1 + \left( \frac{l_{pt1}}{e_0} \right)^{1,5} \cdot (1,3 \cdot \alpha_e + 0,1)}$$

Rewritten with almost equal  $\sigma_{sp}$  as result (if  $l_t = l_{pt1}$ ).

More background information on this transformation is welcome.



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- Use the formula OR fracture-mechanics design shall prove that spalling cracks will not develop : study of the propagation of cracks using the method of finite elements.
  
- Visible horizontal spalling cracks in the webs are not allowed !
  
- Value of transmission length?
  - Calculated according EN1992-1-1 → rather high values.
  - Experimental research → up to 50% less!
  - Important parameter !

### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

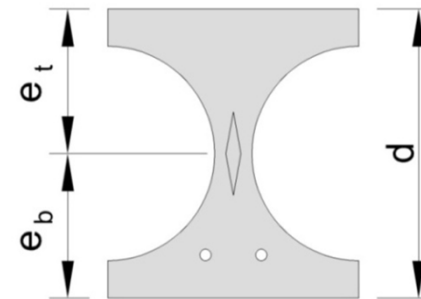
- Relative eccentricity  $\geq 0$ :

$$P_0 \text{ in core} \rightarrow e_0 < k \rightarrow \alpha_e = \frac{e_0 - k}{d} < 0 \rightarrow \alpha_e = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \sigma_{sp} = \frac{P_0}{b_w \cdot e_0} \cdot \frac{0,07}{1 + \left(\frac{l_{pt1}}{e_0}\right)^{1,5}} \cdot 0,1$$

- Section modulus : Bottom fibre or top fibre?

$$W_b = \frac{I}{e_b} \quad \text{or} \quad W_t = \frac{I}{e_t} = \frac{I}{d - e_b} ?$$



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- Section modulus : got lost in translation?

$$W_b = \frac{I}{e_b}$$

$\sigma_{sp}$  for upper reinforcement  
(max. tensile in bottom fibre)

&

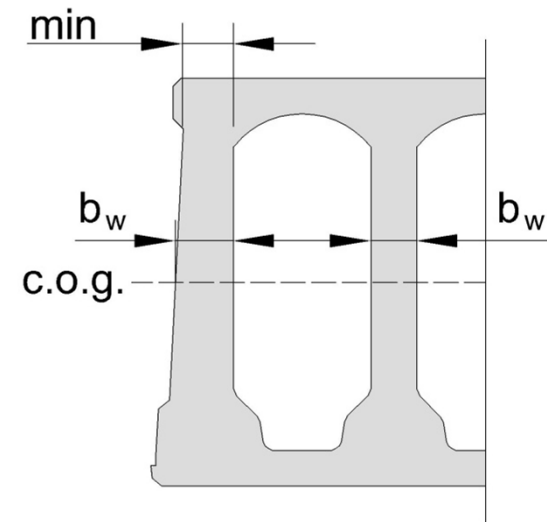
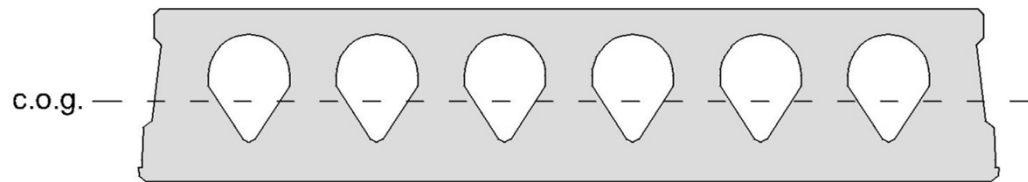
$$W_t = \frac{I}{e_t} = \frac{I}{d - e_b}$$

$\sigma_{sp}$  for lower reinforcement  
(max. tensile in top fibre)

- Thickness of the web  $b_w$ :

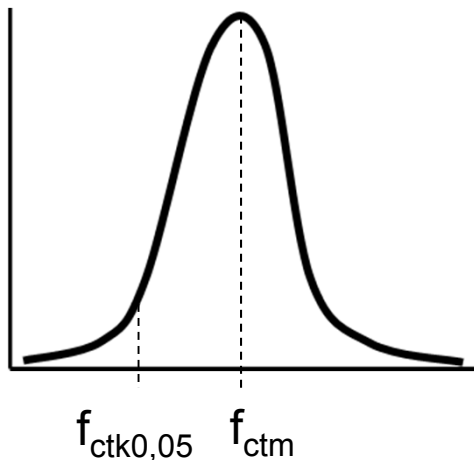
The minimum thickness?

Better to use thickness at center of gravity?



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- $\sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ct}$  = tensile strength at release on the basis of tests.
  - Potential vs. structural strength (overestimating of strength).  
Need for a method to measure the structural tensile strength in a simple and quick way !  
→ Research topic?
  - Characteristic value vs. mean value.



$f_{ctm}$  = mean

→ 50 % is smaller !

→ used in the evaluation of a specific case

$f_{ctk0,05}$  = 5% fractile

→ only 5 % is smaller

→ used in the design of the slab

### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

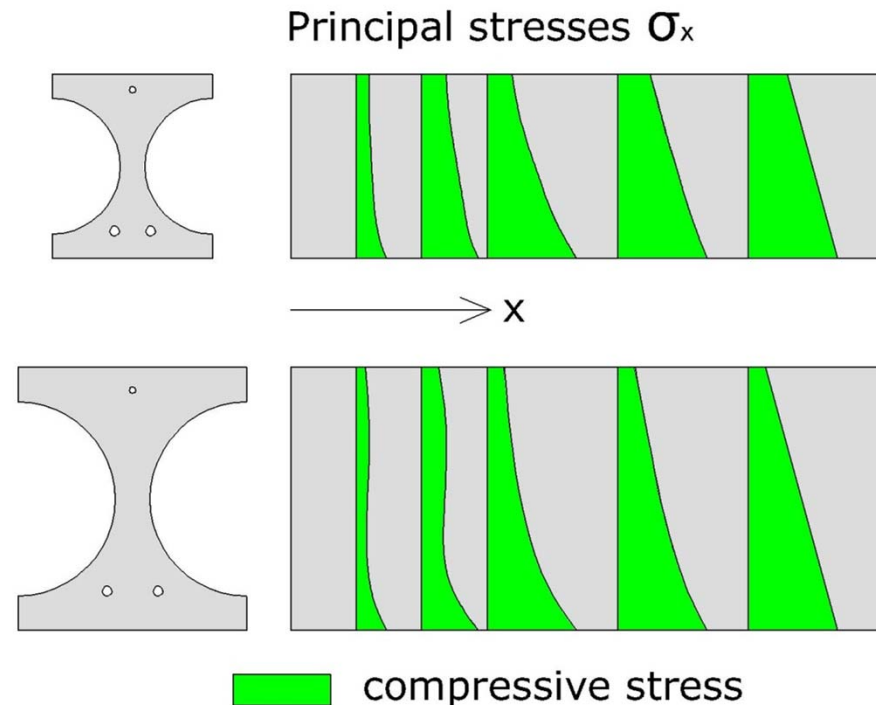
- $\sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ct}$  = tensile strength at release on the basis of tests.
  - Points of interest:
    - You don't know how far it is until cracking, but all slabs are subjected to a test during first lifting from the production bed.  
→ stresses due to lifting or suspension must be added to become a 'safer' situation?
    - Spalling cracks can occur shortly (1-2 days) after production, due to the short-term creep of concrete.
    - Increasing the compressive strength of the concrete at release of prestress works at 'both sides':
      - Higher tensile strength.
      - Higher spalling stress, due to the shorter transmission length.

$$\uparrow \sigma_{sp} \leq f_{ct} \uparrow$$

### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with members with  $d \geq 400$  mm?
  - FEA in the past:  $d < 400$  mm.
  - Is the formula valid for  $d \geq 400$  mm?

In thick members the stress distribution in the sections of the anchorage zone will be 'more' nonlinear than in thin members.



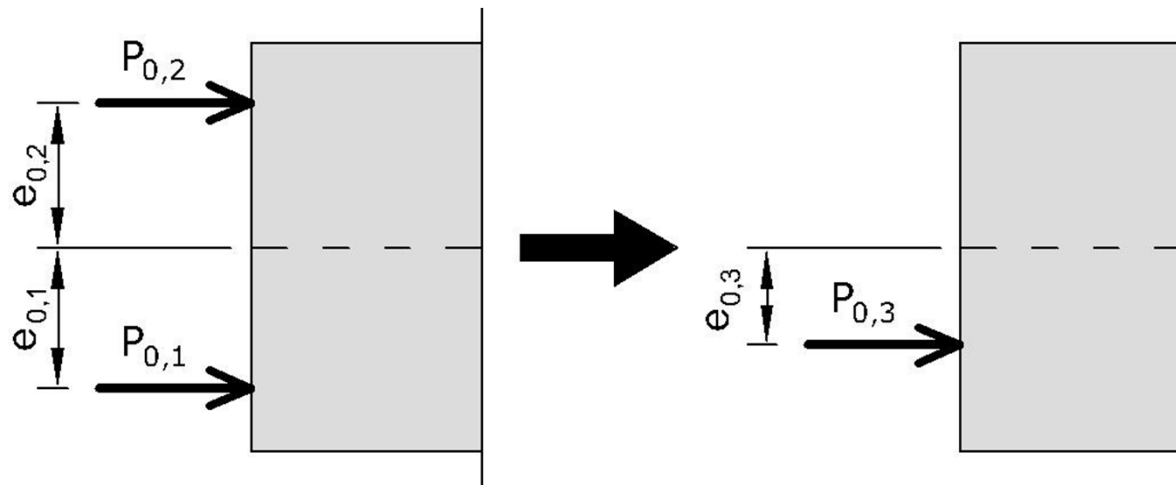
### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with members with  $d \geq 400$  mm?
  - Scope of EN1168:
    - prEN 1168: 1997: maximum  $d = 440$  mm
    - EN 1168: 2005 + A2(2009): maximum  $d = 500$  mm
      - formula of  $\sigma_{sp}$  validated with experimental research?
  - More en more thicker hollow core slabs are used:
    - $d = 450, 500, 800, \dots 1000$  mm: search the limit of application of our products
    - In practice a high risk on spalling
    - Competitor of double T floor



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with upper reinforcement?
  - FEA in the past: only with lower reinforcement.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> way to use the formula?
    - Replace prestress force + eccentricity of the upper and lower reinforcement by one prestress force + eccentricity and then calculate  $\sigma_{sp}$ ?

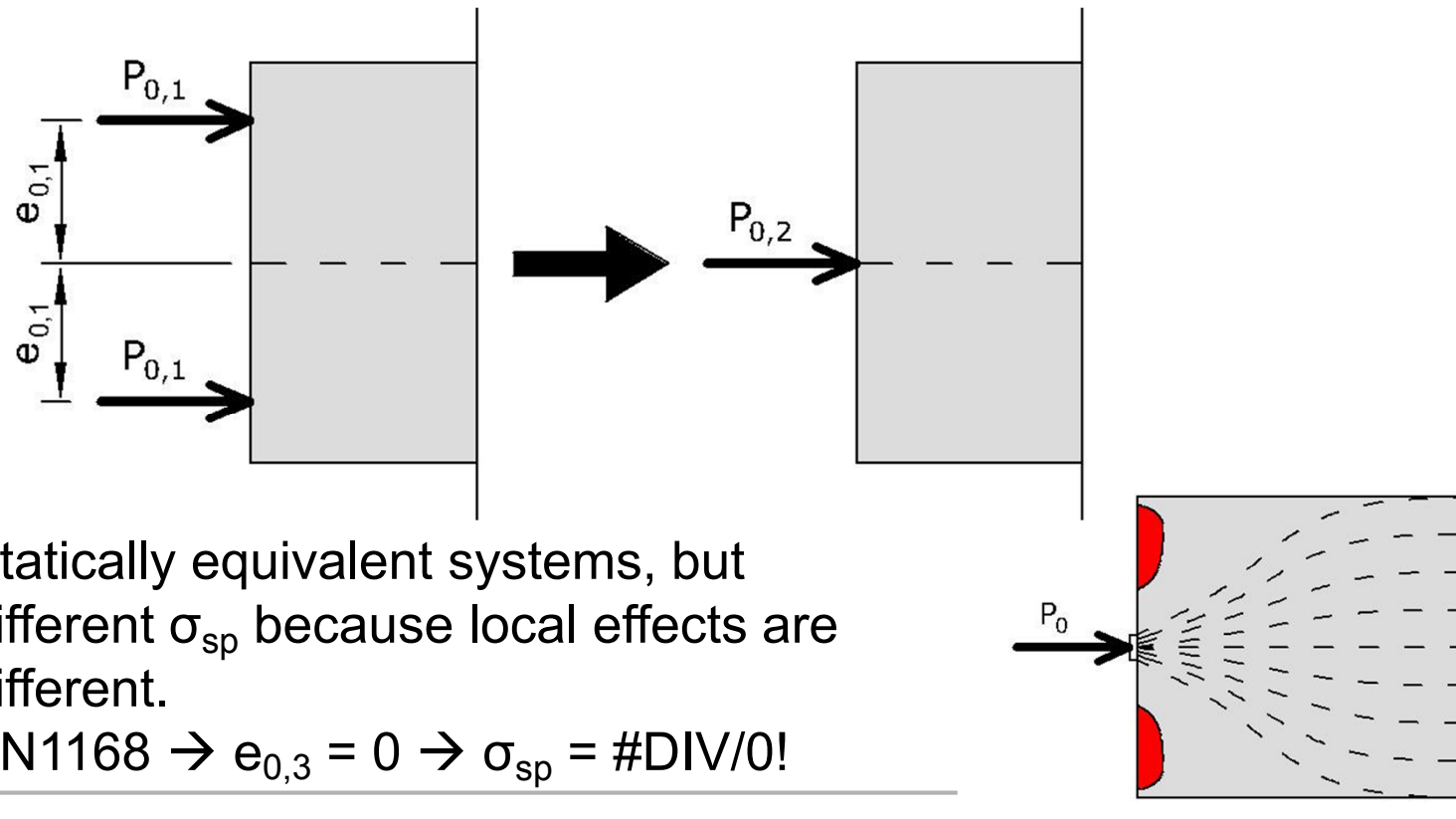


Statically equivalent systems, but different  $\sigma_{sp}$  because local effects are different (principle of Saint-Venant).



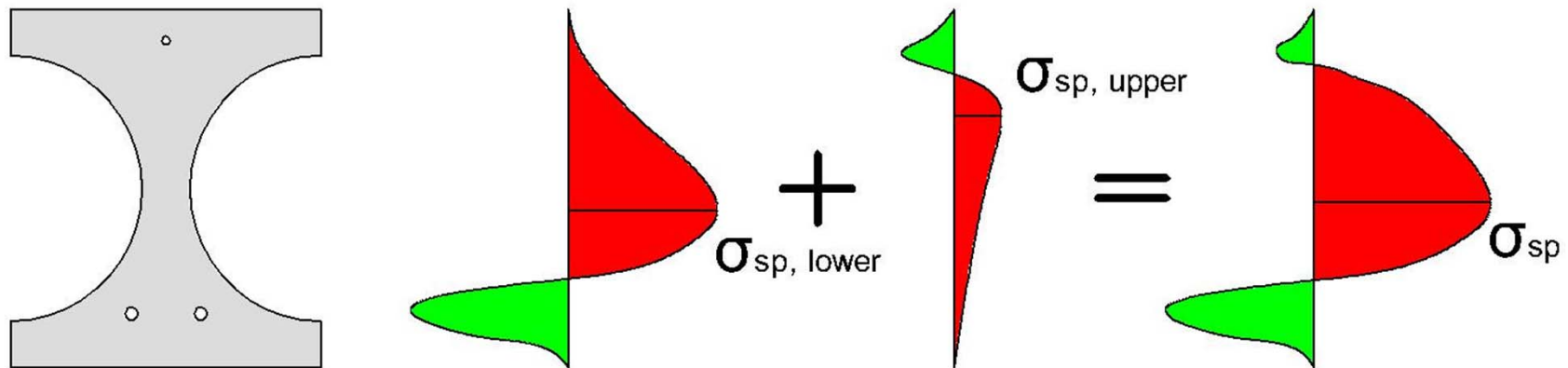
### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with upper reinforcement?
  - 1<sup>st</sup> way to use the formula?
    - What in case of 2 symmetric forces (e.g. wall elements)?



### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with upper reinforcement?
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> way to use the formula?
    - Calculate  $\sigma_{sp}$  lower reinforcement  $\rightarrow \sigma_{sp, lower}$   
Calculate  $\sigma_{sp}$  upper reinforcement  $\rightarrow \sigma_{sp, upper}$   
 $\sigma_{sp, lower}$  and  $\sigma_{sp, upper}$  are located at different heights.



$\sigma_{sp, lower} + \sigma_{sp, upper}$  is not correct.

### 3. Spalling stress according EN1168

- How to deal with upper reinforcement?
  - 3<sup>th</sup> way to use the formula?
    - Just ignore  $\sigma_{sp}$  of the upper reinforcement.  
→ probably done the most, but the negative effect is ignored!
  - Positive impact of the upper reinforcement in case of thin slabs?  
Negative impact in case of thick slabs?  
What's a thin or a thick slab in this sense?
  - Upper reinforcement in hollow core slabs is used:
    - In some seismic areas (e.g. New Zealand)
    - When handling is a problem
    - In wall panels (d is rather limited; +/- 200 mm)

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# 4. Conclusion

## 4. Conclusion

- For  $d < 400$  mm and without upper reinforcement the formula of EN1168 works fine.
- Further research is needed to find a more 'correct/reliable' method for calculating the maximum spalling stress in hollow core slabs with  $d \geq 400$  mm and/or upper reinforcement.

On behalf of ECHO, a theoretical study was started by two students of Xios Hogeschool Limburg in Hasselt, Belgium :

- Building of a finite element model for slabs with and without upper reinforcement;
- Formulate a truss analogy (strut-and-tie model);
- Work out a generally valid formula ( $d < 400$  mm and  $d \geq 400$  mm).

## 4. Conclusion

- Ideal would be to perform an experimental research to validate the results of the theoretical study:
  - Very expensive !
  - Share practical experience of manufacturers → ‘sharepoint’ on the internet in the future?
- The design regarding spalling should be always a ‘bottom up design’ = some slabs that fails in the model, will satisfy in practice.
- Products evolve, standards should do too!

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**Thank you for  
your attention!**

**Questions?**

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